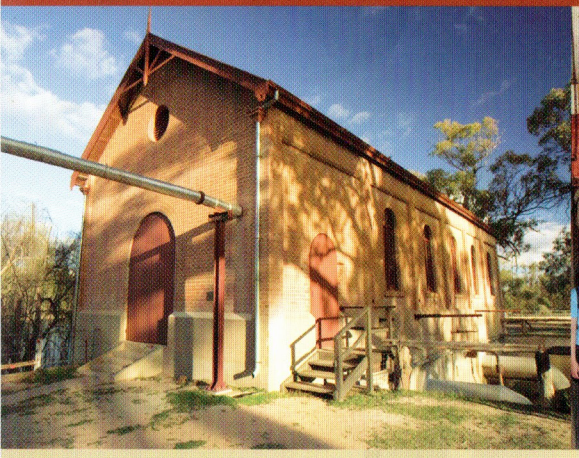
Psyche Pumps

'The only steam driven Tangye operational pump of its type in the World'

mildura attractions

The Chaffey Triple Expansion Steam Engine and Tangye Centrifugal Pumps



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In 1885/86 Alfred Deakin, Victoria's Minister of Water Supply went on a world fact finding mission and met two Canadians who were developing irrigation in Southern California and enticed them to Victoria. George Chaffey arrived in 1886 and after travelling through rural Victoria selected Mildura as the site for an irrigation colony. Shortly afterward, his brother, William Benjamin Chaffey, horticulturist arrived in Mildura. Together they established the Mildura Irrigation Company in 1887 to develop 22,000 hectares (50,000 acres). Being Stage One of an ultimate development of 115,000 hectares (250,000 acres). Their grand vision did not eventuate, but left Mildura with a viable irrigated horticultural area and the birth place of large scale irrigation in Australia.

Psyche Bend Pump Station and Engine designed by George Chaffey and operated from 1891 to 1959.

The original pump and engine at Psyche were built by Tangye's in Birmingham, England to George Chaffey's specifications and restored to operational condition by Sunraysia Steam Preservation Society with assistance from First Mildura Irrigation Trust. The First Mildura Irrigation Trust was formed from an Act of Parliament in 1895 as a result of the Chaffey Brothers' Mildura Irrigation Company going into liquidation and has supplied irrigation and drainage services to the horticultural area around Mildura for over 100 years.

The Chaffey's pumping principle still operates to this very day. Water is pumped from the Murray River into King's Billabong and then from the Billabong up to the 90ft channel then on to the irrigated land. It is now done with electric driven pumps just up-stream from Old Psyche Pumping Station.

Facts

Triple Expansion Four Cylinder Reciprocating Steam Engine

- Built in 1889/90 and installed and commissioned in 1891
- Engine rated at 1,000hp at I60rpm
- Operated at 150psi saturated steam
- Pump discharge 35,000gpm per pump
- Steam for the rehabilitated engine is produced by a 1951 "N" locomotive boiler, unlike the original under fired multi-tubular (Hawke boilers) that operated at Psyche Bend prior to its closure in 1959
- The "N" class boiler was purchased by the Mildura Lions Club from Steamrail Victoria Limited in 1995, at a cost of $30,000

Pump House Open Days

Tuesday	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Thursday	1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Sunday	10.30 am - 12.30 pm

By Special Arrangement for Large Groups

Pumps Running Dates

January	New Years Day
Easter	Easter Sunday
June	Queen's Birthday Weekend (Sunday)
July	(Vic) School Holidays Middle Sunday
September	(Vic) School Holidays Middle Sunday

By Special Arrangement for Major Events

Admission Fees

Pump House Open Days		Pump Running Days	
Adults	$3.00	Adults	$4.00
Family	$8.00	Family	$10.00
(Two Adults and Children)		(Two Adults & Children)	

Location

Further Information

Psyche Bend Historical Reserve Committee
Peter Wharton - Telephone 03 5024 5637

Mildura Visitor Information and Booking Centre
180 - 190 Deakin Avenue Mildura Victoria 3500
Telephone 03 5018 8380 Toll Free 1800 039 043

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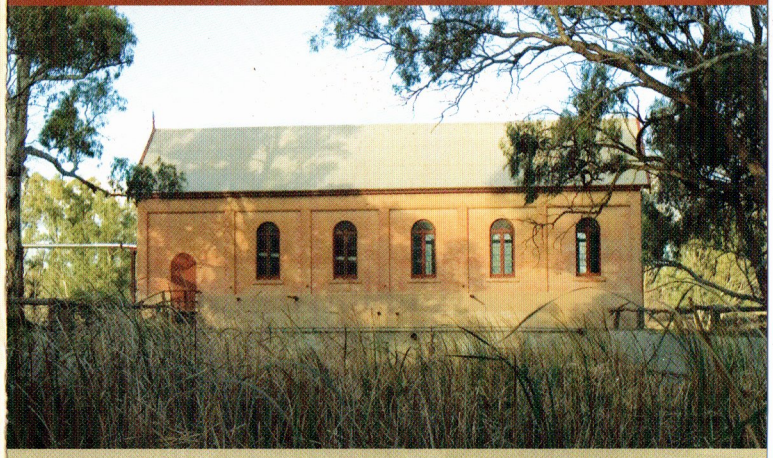

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